

June 27, 2009

We have raised almost \$4,000.00 towards our goal of \$7,000.00 for the Kendwa water project and I want to thank everyone who has helped us with that. We have found out that it takes time and patience to learn the reality of the existing situation before we can go ahead and implement a project. We realized that if we had gone ahead the way we first planned that the project would have failed - in the end there would have been water pipes and taps in Kendwa village but a good chance that there wouldn't be any water. Let me tell you about it.



I had my April 14 Kendwa water project email translated into Swahili and Suleiman and I took copies to the village and read it aloud with the group that we're working with. I feel that it's important that the villagers know exactly what it is that I am saying about them. We told them that we had only raised \$2,000.00 at that time and discussed our options. One of the men asked if they could use the money to buy tools to dig the trenches but Suleiman said that we would have to wait until the total amount was raised before it could be distributed.



A friend of mine who has lived in Kendwa for years said to me “Kathryn, even if you connect to the main water line – there’s no water – so the villagers are not going to be happy with you”. Here is the map that the villagers drew of Kendwa and the water situation.

- ✚ The tanks that were installed years ago have broken and not been repaired
- ✚ Even if they are repaired some villagers are concerned that more hotels will come in and use those lines
- ✚ There is a bore hole that the villagers say they can use
- ✚ We are trying to find out who dug the bore hole and who has rights to it
- ✚ After that the next step would be to test the bore hole to see if there is enough water in it
- ✚ If all is well then the villagers will build a small house around the bore hole to house the pump
- ✚ We will buy a pump and a 5,000 liter water tank (cost \$2,000 estimate)
- ✚ The villagers will dig trenches for the water pipes and also build the water taps to be used
- ✚ If this is not feasible the other option is to use a pump on one of the existing wells to run water to the water tank

Kendwa village has been here for a very long time and they have a complex history. It is important to acknowledge and respect their history and their intertwined relationships with their environment that includes other villages, the government and the hotels that are moving into the area.

The objective of Participate Now! is to listen and learn, create and plan, collaborate and document and share results. That is the way that small scale projects can truly be sustainable.



Suleiman has spent the past two weeks visiting various people at the Ministry of Water trying to understand the situation with the main water pipe. He has been very respectful and they have been kind but it’s complex dealing with a bureaucracy. Bwana Haji is the man in the blue shirt talking with Suleiman and the villagers. He is with the Ministry of Water in the north district (where Kendwa village is) and he was very brave and kind to come out and talk with them. We discussed the history of the area and he told us that there are many villages who are having water problems but in his estimation Kendwa had a very big problem. He said that many villages are digging bore holes and using either electric pumps or pumps with generators to get water. So we discussed buying a pump and using the bore hole that is near the “mpira” sign on the map. We were

concerned that it would be very expensive and we haven't raised much money. On the right is a pump that is used by a local hotel and it costs about \$1,000.00 so that looks like an option. We would also have to buy a 5,000 liter water tank which is also about \$1,000.00. Of course, that will raise the amount of money we will need to successfully finish the project.

We are finding that it's been really good for the villagers to talk and brainstorm about their different choices of action. Toward the end of this meeting we had different options from various men:

- ✚ Connect to the government water pipe and be happy with whatever we get for however long
- ✚ Take our time and do it correctly so that it's sustainable and there will be water for our children when they grow up
- ✚ Connect to the government water pipe and use a "siphon system" – build up the pressure and release the water in controlled ways
- ✚ Buy a pump and connect directly to the existing bore hole and be responsible for repairs and maintenance

I am talking with some local business people who may be interested in funding this project. I am very appreciative because it will then be a truly "local" project. Again – we have to do some more research to be absolutely sure what the reality is so that we and the Ministry and the villagers don't have misunderstandings or miscommunication. We visit the village at least every two weeks which is 1-1/2 hours from town to collaborate as best we can.

I love my work here and I plan on having this water project finished by the end of the year. I want to thank all of you for your support and guidance – Participate Now! is based on listening and learning – that takes time. The objective of this project is not just to get the water taps installed – it's to facilitate communication and collaboration amongst the villagers, the local leaders and others who share the same land.

Next week we are going on a "study tour" with our farmers in Koani to visit farmers in other villages. I am really excited about that and will take lots of photos.

Visit our website [Participate Now!](#) to learn more about our foundation. Our main objective is to do small-scale projects with lasting impact. We are grateful for any support at all that you can give us. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Participate Now!
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Thank you

Kathryn

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